NUMB. CXX.

The GUARDIAN.

——nothing Loveliер can be found
In Woman, than to ſtudy Houſhold Good,
And good works in her Husband to promote. Milton.

Wedneſday, July 29. 1713.

A Bit for the Lion.

SIR,

'AS ſoon as you have ſet up your Unicorn, there is no queſtion but the Ladies will make him puſh very furiouſly at the *Men*; for which reaſon I think it is good to be before-hand with them, and make the Lion roar aloud at *Female* Irregularities. Among theſe, I wonder how their *Gaming* has ſo long eſcaped your Notice. You, who converſe with the ſober Family of the *Lizards*, are perhaps a Stranger to theſe Virago's; but what wou'd you ſay, ſhould you ſee the *Sparkler* ſhaking her Elbow for a whole Night together, and thumping the Table with a Dice-Box? Or how would you like to hear the good Widow-Lady her ſelf returning to her Houſe at Mid-night, and alarming the whole Street with a moſt Enormous Rap, after having ſat up 'till that time at Crimp or Ombre? Sir, I am the Husband of one of theſe Female Gameſters, and a great Loſer by it both in my Reſt and my Pocket. As my Wife reads your Papers, one upon this Subject might be of uſe both to her, and

Your Humble Servant.

I ſhould ill deſerve the Name of *Guardian*, did I not caution all my fair Wards againſt a Practice, which when it runs to Exceſs, is the moſt ſhameful, but one, that the Female World can fall into. The ill Conſequences of it are more than can be contained in this Paper. However, that I may proceed in method, I ſhall conſider them, Firſt, as they relate to the *Mind*, Secondly, as they relate to the *Body*.

Could we look into the *Mind* of a Female Gameſter, we ſhould ſee it full of nothing but *Trumps* and *Mattadores*. Her Slumbers are haunted with Kings, Queens and Knaves. The Day lies heavy upon her till the Play-Seaſon returns, when for half a dozen Hours together all her Faculties are employed in Shuffling, Cutting, Dealing and Sorting out a Pack of Cards, and no Ideas to be diſcovered in a Soul which calls it ſelf rational, excepting little ſquare Figures of painted and ſpotted Paper. Was the Underſtanding, that Divine Part in our Compoſition, given for ſuch an Uſe? Is it thus that we improve the greateſt Talent Human Nature is endowed with? What would a Superior Being think, were he ſhown this intellectual Faculty in a Female Gameſter, and at the ſame time told that it was by this ſhe was diſtinguiſhed from Brutes, and allied to Angels?

When our Women thus fill their Imaginations with Pipps and Counters, I cannot wonder at the Story I have lately heard of a new-born Child that was *markt* with the five of Clubs.

Their *Paſſions* ſuffer no leſs by this Practice than their Underſtandings and Imaginations. What Hope and Fear, Joy and Anger, Sorrow and Diſcontent break out all at once in a fair Aſſembly upon ſo noble an Occaſion as that of turning up a Card? Who can conſider without a Secret Indignation that all thoſe Affections of the Mind which ſhould be conſecrated to their Children, Husbands and Parents, are thus